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# Congressman Tim Scott

South Carolina First Congressional District

## **How Can I Get Help With The United States Citizens and Immigration Service?**

As with all other inquiries to federal agencies, the Federal Privacy Act requires that the constituent provide to me a written, signed privacy authorization detailing what you are requesting that agency to provide to me, along with all pertinent information about your case. If you have access to the Internet, you can find a form for this purpose on my website at [www.timscott.house.gov](http://www.timscott.house.gov). If you do not have access to the Internet, one can be mailed to you or picked up by you at either of my District Offices shown above.

### Inquiry Process

While members of Congress have the right of inquiry to federal agencies on behalf of their constituents, they do not have direct jurisdiction over those agencies. Those agencies are part of the Executive Branch and answer ultimately to the President. A Congressional Inquiry is helpful in highlighting problems that occur in the bureaucratic process but does not guarantee that your case will be expedited and will not move your case ahead of others in the process.

In processing USCIS petitions, some of the factors that govern how quickly a case moves through the system are: Receipt Dates, Priority Dates and Notice Dates on the "Notice of Action" (I-797) sent to the petitioner. It is the petitioner's responsibility to immediately notify USCIS of any change in your status, particularly a change of your address, and to provide any additional information requested by the agency promptly. Failure to do so can cause lengthy delays or even terminate action on your petition and trigger deportation action against you. See additional information at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

An inquiry usually takes six to eight weeks, but can take longer. My staff will inform you as information becomes available from USCIS. Thank you